



May 2021

## **BREXIT – What We Know So Far**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The aim of this document is to keep Members informed on the work the Association Executive Committee has been doing to clarify the effects of BREXIT on the ability of Members to attend events in the EU.

The customs organisations of the UK, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and France were sent an email asking them to clarify the effect of BREXIT on the import and export of members equipment and weapons. This document details the information that the Association has so far received from the Customs firearms licensing authorities.

### **UNITED KINGDOM**

HMRC simply referred the Association to UK Government documents that we were already aware of. These are:

<https://www.gov.uk/import-goods-into-uk>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/import-controls-on-offensive-weapons>

The relevant documents on these websites are on the Association website. For Firearms if you have the correct and up to date licences then other than declaring them at the Customs point when leaving or entering the UK there should be no need to pay any import fees. Similarly, providing edged weapons are not on the proscribed list then there should be no trouble in importing and exporting them.

We went back to HMRC and in their email they stated that:

“If the goods are going out of the country temporarily you may need an ATA carnet have attached some links below for you. If the ATA carnet does not suit your needs there is a potential at looking at a duplicate list but you would need to confirm with the destination country that they accept this and then returned goods relief to bring the items back to the UK,

[Apply for an ATA Carnet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-ata-carnet)

[How to use your ATA Carnet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-use-your-ata-carnet)

[Take goods temporarily out of the UK: If you do not use an ATA Carnet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/take-goods-temporarily-out-of-the-uk-if-you-do-not-use-an-ata-carnet)

[Pay less import duty and VAT when re-importing goods to the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-less-import-duty-and-vat-when-re-importing-goods-to-the-uk) “

An ATA Carnet costs £325.96 and must be renewed every year but it does cover all EU countries.

We will go back to the HMRC and confirm what they mean by a duplicate list.

## **BELGIUM**

We must give a special thanks to the Belgian authorities who have been the most helpful to us. The Belgian Customs informed us that:

“You can declare your equipment in several ways to place them under the special customs procedure of temporary admission:

- By the usual electronic import declaration (with a guarantee to be provided at the customs office of placement under TA, mostly situated at the moment of importation in the EU), valid only in Belgium (for one re-enactment or more in BE) OR valid for Belgium and the other Member States concerned by your re-enactment(s) (in this case, you must apply for authorization through the CDMS).
- By a verbal declaration with a mandatory inventory in case you participate in an official re-enactment organized by a public state organization in Belgium (only if approved by the competent Belgian customs authorities who have officially invited you to participate)
- By the use of an ATA Carnet (with no guarantee from you as this ATA Carnet is issued (and guaranteed) by the UK Chamber of Commerce and Industry), valid for the whole EU customs territory (thus, the 27 Member States) with one declaration.”

We have now received an email from the Belgian Ministry of Finance stating:

“If you can produce an invitation from a government authority at the time of import, the firearms and equipment can be temporarily imported with a verbal declaration.

This means that at the moment of entry into Belgium, you inform the local customs authorities of the temporary import. An inventory will accompany the goods. No written declaration is needed.”

Firearms licensing in Belgium is undertaken by the three Regional Governments depending on where the event takes place. Contact details are also on the website. The advice we have received is that muzzle loading guns where the model was designed before 1890 and manufactured before 1945 do not need licensing. All firearms manufactured after 1945 will have to be licensed. The Licensing Authorities would prefer that the request for licences is handle by a single organisation either in the UK or by the event organisers. This is summarised by two emails the texts of which are also on the website.

The information gathered has been passed to our friend Ron Van Dyck who will pass it on to the Waterloo Organisers.

## **FRANCE**

We were referred from the Customs organisation to the Ministry of Finance who have not responded to our request for information. We will continue to hasten a response from the Ministry of Finance.

## **SPAIN**

We have received an email from the Spanish Consulate in London which details how Firearms can be licensed and the form needed is posted on the Association Website. We will be going back to them to seek clarification on the import/export of equipment.

## **PORTUGAL**

We have received an email from the Portuguese Customs which states:

“Considering the above and taking into account the fact that the described merchandise is part of this concept, its temporary importation will not require any prior authorization from the National Director of the PSP.”

The email referred us to a separate branch for firearms licensing and we will approach that branch for clarification of licensing.

## **CONCLUSION**

We have made considerable process in identifying how weapons and equipment can be exported and in imported into these countries and have made significant progress on firearms licensing. We will continue to gather as much more information as we can and will issue an update to keep members fully informed of developments,

Please note that names and contact details have been removed for data control purposes.

Martyn Monks  
Chair  
The Napoleonic Association

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Registered Office: 57 Station Road, Southminster, Essex, CM0 7EW. Registered Number: 03220598.